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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AF-10 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /159 W
---------- 104614
R 151235Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5139
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USNATO 1391

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0073

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MT
SUBJ: TALK WITH JOE CAMILLERI

1. CHARGE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH P.M. MINTOFF'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, JOE CAMILLERI, AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR ATTARD KINGSWELL JAN 12. BECAUSE OF MINTOFF'S HABIT OF WORKING LATE HOURS, CAMILLERI IS RARELY SEEN AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

2. LIBYA/TUNISIA MERGER: WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY SAYING SO, CAMILLERI GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT GOM HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF MERGER IN ADVANCE. HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE PERSONNALY THINKS QADHAFI IS VERY WEAK REED FOR GOM TO LEAN UPON.

3. NATIONALIST PARTY: CAMILLERI VOLUNTEERED INFO THAT NATIONALISTS IN PROCESS OF REPLACING BORG OLIVIER AS PARTY LEADER AND SAID EDWARD FENECH ADAMI, GUIDO DEMARCO, AND MARIO FELICE ARE AMONG THE FRONT RUNNERS. HE SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOMETIME SOON. COMMENT: THIS SORT OF SPECULATION CONFIDENTIAL

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ARISES FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT FACT THAT IT COMES

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FROM CAMILLERI GIVES SOMEWHAT GREATER CREDENCE. AT RECENT RECEPTION BY GUIDO DEMARCO FOR NATIONALIST M.P.S THERE WAS MUCH TALK ABOUT B.O.'S LACK OF DRIVE AND NEED TO REPLACE HIM (PRINCIPALLY GEORGE BONELLO DUPUIS AND MARIO FELICE), BUT WHEN GIVEN ARGUMENT THAT NATIONALISTS NEED HIS VOTES (B.O. REGULARLY WINS TWO SEATS), THEY BACKED OFF CONSIDERABLY. IT IS CLEAR HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT AMONG OPPOSITION M.P.S THAT THEIR PARTY BADLY NEEDS REJUVENATION. WHILE WE KNOW MANY NATIONALIST M.P.S HOLD FENECH ADAMI IN HIGH REGARD, THIS IS FIRST TIME HE HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN LIST OF POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR B.O.

4. LABOR PARTY: FOREGOING LED TO FUTURE OF MLP LEADERSHIP. CAMILLERI SAID HE BELIEVES THAT IF AND WHEN MINTOFF GIVES UP MLP LEADERSHIP, HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY LORRY SANT. CAMILLERI POINTED TO SANT'S EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AS PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER AND WELL KNOWN BACKING OF GENERAL WORKERS UNION. COMMENT: IT IS TRUE THAT SANT HAS GAINED CONSIDERABLE STATURE AS MINISTER, BUT HE STILL IS VERY MUCH UNDER MINTOFF'S SHADOW; AND, ALTHOUGH AN MLP STRONG MAN, HE LACKS APPEAL AMONG LABOR INTELLECTUALS AND NON-WORKER MLP SUPPORTERS GENERALLY.TUCKER

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